MAT-SU MONITOR

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Alvin S. Okeson Library
Matanuska-Susitna College
P.O. Box 5001
Palmer, AK 99645

MEET YOUR CANDIDATES

Candidates for Student Government President: Tom Stein and Natasha Johnson

Tom Stein ...President

If elected I would like to see these programs established:

A. Form a recruitment committee to seek female matriculation in standard and non-conventional curriculum. This committee will establish communications with all public and private leadership in our state, for the sole purpose of female recruitment.

B. Form a committee to research, establish and maintain a low-cost/no-cost day care facility. This committee is to seek private and public funding with the understanding that only students are to be hired.

C. Establish a committee to seek private funding for single parent and married student scholarships. These scholarships are to be complete!

D. Establish a committee to establish a Student Health Insurance program. This program is to provide married and single parent coverage, as well as single student needs.

Natasha Kathleen Johnson ...President

I believe I can enrich the quality of education and student morale at MSCC. I want to work to find ways to encourage residents of the Mat-Su Borough to continue their education at MSCC. I want to work to find ways to encourage greater involvement of the MSCC student body and the MSCC student government with the problems of the Mat-Su Borough. I feel working as president of the MSCC student government will enable me to fulfill my goals for the students of MSCC.

Jason Causey...Vice President

I'm running for the office of Vice President for Mat-Su Community College Student Government in a hope to improve and add to existing policies and ideas.

As Vice President I would like to see that graduating high school students are made aware of the fact that MSCC is a good place to begin an education for a future career.

Kim Trask ...Secretary

If elected to the office of Student Government Secretary I will do the best to my ability to fulfill the duties required to hold this office.

I will not only fulfill the duties of secretary but I will always be here for students to come to with their comments, complaints and suggestions that they would like to have brought up in student government.

I believe I have the qualifications, dedication and motivation to fulfill this office to the fullest.

Alexandra Ruddell ...Secretary

Like most of us, I shunned the idea of joining Student Government; I thought myself much too busy. The best cure for apathy is involvement, so here I am, involved. If elected as your secretary you'll find that you can depend on me; you can depend on me to be there, you can depend on me to do the job and you can depend on me to care about the quality of education we here at Mat-Su need to reach our goals.

Lisa Downing ...Treasurer

As an accounting major I have gained the knowledge necessary to fulfill the requirements of the office of treasurer of Mat-Su Community College Student Government. The duties of treasurer involve budget analysis, audits and monthly reports for which I've been trained.

Current situations I am addressing are Accounting degree program problems and recruitment of students from local high schools. I would also like to address the problems of a childcare cooperative.

Long term goals I would like to see obtained are continued work on the recruitment program and four year university status for this campus. Although University status may be a long way off, groundwork must be laid now for future accomplishments.

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Voting will take place at registration desk the week of March 11-16. All students with activity cards are eligible to vote.

Candidates Running for Student Government Secretary: Alexandra Ruddell and Kim Trask

EDITORIAL

I would like to respond to the question frequently heard at MSCC - Why do we have an Agricultural Program?

As a three year student at MSCC about to receive my Associate of Applied Science in Agriculture, I believe the agriculture program at the college is an acceptable and potentially profitable area of study in this state. There is increasing job placement potential in Alaska. Agriculture land disposals and new experiment facilities are coming on line and opportunities for research and jobs will be presented.

Of the twelve Agriculture graduates since 1982, when the program began, at least three have held jobs locally. Libby Smith, 1984 graduate, is presently employed as Agriculture helper at U.S.D.A. Experiment Station. Students like Jeff Roach, now at University of Alaska, Fairbanks, Jim Nelson, working on his Masters, and myself, will go on to 4-year colleges. Whatever our goals, we will reap the rewards of the seeds we've sown. Hopefully others will follow, especially as transferability of required course credits becomes more equable.

Global weather trends, long supply lines, pestilence, and urbanization of current farmland will eventually inhibit our supply of food and materials. History shows us that virtually all civilization develops around agriculture. Many times when that farming base failed, so did the civilization.

Agriculture has been studied and scientifically advanced in Alaska for 87 years. Even before the Agriculture Experiment Station became part of Alaska Agricultural College and School of Mines in 1915, they began contributing research. Now, as part of University of Alaska, the Station passes this information on to the public through MSCC and the Extension Service and personnel. Oats, wheat, potatoes, vegetables, milk production, cereal and forage grasses have been greatly improved through the efforts of the researchers at the Experiment Station. Though many of these knowledgeable people are reluctant to teach because of the time away from their research, those who have contributed much to the viability of the program here at MSCC.

Many of us are dubious of the college's ability to educate adequately students in the degree programs offered at MSCC. Perhaps it's the air of personnel oriented faculty and students or the small but growing size of the college. Yes, we're friendly, concerned, and informal, but that's not to say we are without discipline or preparation.

Updating facilities means updating our minds with a positive approach toward the agriculture buildings under construction. On completion, classroom/labs will give students opportunities to experiment with livestock, vegetation and equipment. Students in a more advanced form of study will strive for recognition.

Alaska is agriculturally viable with over twenty million acres of potential crop or rangeland.

Alaska's cool climate decreases plant respiration and its long photosynthetic periods and relatively pest free environment give it comparative advantage in many crops.

Whether or not we need agriculture education in Alaska will depend on how well the U.S. can support an increasing population and do so on decreasing amounts of quality land. With global crop failures and national losses, our crops will become more economical. When there is adequate demand for products our farmers can afford to produce a viable market will develop. Good marketing conditions depend on quantity, especially when competing with the rest of the world which often has lower input costs.

For these reasons, MSCC has a "comparative advantage" in Alaska, if you will, for producing agriculture students.

DATELINE 2035

A history of valley agriculture

In May of 1935, 100 years ago this month, the first colonists sailed up Resurrection Bay and docked at Seward, the start of a federal project to begin farming in the Matanuska Valley on a large scale.

The colonists, 200 farm families mainly from Minnesota, Michigan and Wisconsin, were taking part in a New Deal program established by President Franklin D. Roosevelt. About 75% of the colonists were from the Cutover Region of Minnesota, an area that was hit hard by the great depression. They were selected to take part in this bold experiment because of the similarities in climate between their home and the Matanuska Valley.

Experts from the agricultural division of the College of Alaska had selected the 200 forty-acre farm sites. They were determined to have the best soil and drainage factors and were determined to be the best potential agriculture areas in the Valley, and some of the very best farmland in the entire territory.

Farming in the Valley was done on only a small scale until the colonists arrived in 1935, and after several years of fine tuning their agriculture methods, things finally came together.

The 1950's and early part of the 1960's were the heydays for farming in the Matanuska Valley. The farmers were increasing their output by leaps and bounds. The market was equally as good and farmers were making very good money.

Agriculture had its ups and downs over the next two decades, as farmers faced increased pressure from outside competition in the 70's. With improved shipping methods and stiff competition from outside producers, many commodities could be brought in from the Lower 48 and sold cheaper than they were being sold by Valley farmers.

At the close of the 1980's, the rapidly increasing land prices in the Matanuska Valley drove the remaining hay and dairy farmers out of the fertile Valley and on to new areas of agriculture in the state, or into new lines of work.

The final operating Matanuska farm closed in 1992. The remains of a colony barn on that site have been preserved as a monument to the early settlers.

Farming took place for the ensuing 57 years in the Matanuska Valley and farmers experienced both good times and bad, before the final farm was subdivided into building lots in the early 1990's.

The pressure to develop the Valley into a massive housing project accelerated when the state capital was moved from Juneau to Wasilla in 1990.

So as we celebrate the centennial of those early pioneers who settled here, we should stop for a moment and reflect on where we have been. A look at our past may give us a glimpse of our future.

The federal government began to be interested in the idea of farming in the late 1800's when many gold prospectors were rushing to Alaska. In 1897, Congress sent a group of three men to the Territory of Alaska to see if farming was possible. Their favorable reports spurred further investigation, and by 1915 an agriculture experiment station was set up in the Matanuska Valley. The station was located near the Trunk Highway, on the grounds of Palmer State University. (That experimental station was dismantled on its 100th anniversary and moved to its present site in Nenana.)

The Mat-Su Monitor is published six times a year while school is in session by the Writing For Newspapers class at Matanuska-Susitna Community College, Palmer, Alaska.

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Staff

Carole Smith: Editor
Jacque Peterson
Donna Wilson
Sarah Ann
Ray Doucet
Susan Schmidt
Gary Rhodes
Maureen McCombs
Faculty Advisor:
Elizabeth Fallon

Scholarship Winners: Ron Swider, Jennie Johnston, and Natasha Johnson

Scholarships!

Several Mat-Su Community College students have been awarded a student government scholarship. The four students each have received a $300.00 tuition grant.

Awards of the scholarships were made on the basis of academic achievement and scholastic goals, displaying that...Good Progress Always gets rewards.

Jennie Johnston is seeking an A.A. degree in Social Sciences here and plans to go on to a four year institute in Anchorage or Fairbanks. Jennie would like to pursue employment in Counseling of the Deaf. Besides a heavy class load, her daughters, Carrie, age eight and Andrea, age three, keep her busy at home and she still manages to maintain a Grade Point Average of 4.0

Natasha Johnson is in her second semester at MSCC, working toward an A.A. in Computer Sciences with emphasis in Math and Computations . Even though she had six years experience working with computers, she realized she needed the formal educational background. Natasha partially attributes her ability to possess a GPA of 3.8 to her instructors, as she is very impressed with them. As Natasha plans to get more involved on campus, she is preparing to run for Student Government president in the upcoming election.

Dale Rue, an electronics major was unfortunately unavailable at press time for comment regarding this achievement. Congratulations just the same, Dale!

Ron Swider was active in the National Guard last year when he decided to return to school on a full time basis. He remains in the National Guard while pursuing a degree in Psychology and carrying a GPA of 4.0 Ron's future plans are to attend the University of Alaska after he obtains his A.A. degree here. He also is currently running for Student Government Representative.

Budget Cuts

In an effort to shift $125 million to the 1986 budget, Gov. Bill Sheffield announced actions to reduce spending in all state agencies. Within the week the University Chancellors have been notified in a February 14 memo from Donald O'Dowd, President of the University, that spending reductions in fiscal year '85 will begin immediately.

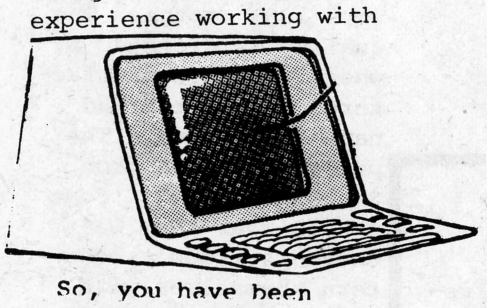
The cuts have been brought about by rapidly falling oil prices. Alaska is facing a possible $300 million short fall in fiscal year '86. Nearly 85 percent of state revenue is produced from oil. Every one dollar drop in price costs Alaska $150 million a year.

Gov. Sheffield's proposed cutbacks and freezes are an attempt to lop as many dollars from '85 budget as possible and that will mean less that "we'll have to take out for fiscal '86", the Governor said.

As of February 14, new position hiring is frozen until July '85. Non-instructional labor pool use should be reduced to a bare minimum, travel pay will be restricted, commodities expenditures reduced and no new or replacement equipment may be purchased unless it is of an emergency nature.

Okeson states that every effort will be made to assure that the lapsed monies will come from non-essential services rather than cutting funds from areas which would cause the disruption of academic programs for students, staff and faculty. "Part-time, temporary staff will probably be the first to be cut but that effort shouldn't affect the curriculum. The classes would simply be larger, saving money in the long run", said Okeson.

O'Dowd's memo announced, "Summer sessions are an essential part of our instructional program and will not be cancelled unless we are required to do so by the Governor and the Legislature. I believe we are taking all possible actions to save money short of those which will cause irrevocable harm to our students, staff and faculty."



News Byte

So, you have been considering taking a computer class at the Mat-Su college and are wondering exactly what kind of new fangled equipment they might have. Well for a start the campus is linked with the rest of the statewide University system through the VAX and Honeywell time share system. Through this system you can reach students and faculty located on other campuses through the electronic mail system. Or you can set up files on any of a number of different systems. So what else does the campus have , how about Apples, Osbornes, Compaqs and Decmates. You will get exposure to most of these systems in an Intro to Data Processing class. If you are ready for something more advanced you might try a Basic,or Pascal programming class. MSCC has made a commitment to make available to valley students top quality equipment and instructors. As a student at MSCC you have the advantage over Anchorage and other campus students. The ratio of students to computers is considerbly better on our campus than can be found almost anywhere else in the state. So if you think you are ready to learn more about computers or would like to have the computer time to be able to do some meaningful programming MSCC could be a good place to start.

Notices

WARNING!
ALL CARS PARKED IN FIRE LANES WILL BE TOWED AWAY

CONCERTS UNDER GLASS

March 13
Peter Frothingham's Bluegrass Band
March 20
Monty Brazelle - Dramatic Tenor
March 27
String Ensemble
April 3
Stan Harris - Palmer High School
April 10
Valley Performing Arts
Tom Stein
Natasha Johnson
Alexandra Ruddell
Kim Trask

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NOMINATIONS NEEDED

Community colleges in Alaska are looking for outstanding members of the college staff and faculty.

MSCC will also be awarding a special certificate for an outstanding program.

Nomination forms for Mat-Su's outstanding duo and program awards can be picked up in locations around the college. The nominations must be turned in to Dean Massay's office before March 25.

Cash awards of $100., as well as plaques or certificates will be awarded by President Donald O'Dowd to the winner in May.

Last year at MSCC Elizabeth Fallon was selected outstanding faculty member and the college Art Show Program, under the direction of Librarian Leza Madsen was also honored in lieu of an outstanding staff member.

So pick up a nomination form and give us your choice for those you think are the greatest.

See Europe in July

Have you ever dreamed of spending all or part of a summer touring central Europe? If you have, this summer is the summer you have been waiting for.

This summer, part-time MSCC instructor Gerda Horton will be escorting an ACIS tour of the major capitols of central Europe. For four weeks students will immerse themselves in the wonders that are Europe.

The tour departs Anchorage on July 2 and you begin your "Grand Tour" in London, England. For $2199.00 students will travel through six countries and 15 major cities. The price of the tour includes round trip airfare, quality hotels, breakfast and dinner.

In London you will be able to watch the changing of the guard outside of Buckingham Palace, take a stroll in Hyde park, and visit the Tower of London where the famous "Crown Jewels" are displayed. Your time in London will pass all too quick.

Then, it is on to the "City of Light" Paris, France. Besides the Fiffel tower, the Arc de Triomphe and the Louvre, Paris has many more wonderful sights to see. Among them would be the Pompidou National Art Museum & Notre-Dame.

The tour offers students the opportunity to take a half day trip to Versailles. Built by Mansart for Louis XIV (the Sun King) Versailles should not be missed. Be prepared to pay extra to see different parts of the palace. Your money would be well spent in seeing the gardens and the apartments where the King and Queen resided.

On leaving Paris you will head for Nice, the captial of the French Riviera, which includes Monaco. Monaco, a separate principality, is also the home of the famous Grimaldi family. From Nice you travel on to Florence, home of the Renaissance. Here you can see Michealangelo's "David".

One cannot leave Italy without seeing Rome. Rome, the "Eternal City", where the remnants of an ancient world still exist. Not to be missed are the Colosseum, Piazza Venezia and Vatican City. Optional day trips to Stratford-on-Avon, Windsor Castle, Oxford, Capri, Pompeii can be added for very little extra cost.

This tour includes so much more than can be written about in one small newspaper article. Interested students can check tour posters located through out the MSCC campus or for more information contact Gerda Horton at MSCC or at home 243-0583.

Senator Visits Campus

Al Okeson Greets Senator Murkowski at Campus Reception

U.S. Senator Frank Murkowski told students at Mat-Su Community College that recent cuts in the Federal financial student aid programs will not substantially affect the MSCC population.

Murkowski made that statement on a February 14 visit to the campus. While here, the senator attended a student government sponsored reception and answered a bevy of questions from students as well as faculty members.

Agriculture instructor Ted Berry queried Murkowski about his views on the future of the state's agricultural production.

"There has been an increase in agriculture from foreign countries, to come to the state and lease land, using new technology and machinery", Murkowski told the students. He added that this proposed agricultural development would utilize the local work force of experienced and trained persons with agricultural backgrounds.

The senator also pointed out that there were many areas that foreign countries were interested in developing Alaskan industries.

Other subjects Murkowski addressed that were of particular interest to the students were the status of financial aid.

Several service veterans were concerned about rumored cuts in the veteran's student financial aid programs. Murkowski assured them that there were no planned cut-backs of those programs. He added, however, that there were going to be cuts in the area of mortgages for V.A. home construction loans.

Other areas of concern that Murkowski discussed with the gathering were aid to the elderly and disabled, cuts that would affect the state's federal revenue sharing program and federal road construction aid.

After the reception Murkowski thanked both the students and the staff of MSCC and commented on the campus's "exquisite facility".

"These facilities represent a committment in a renewable resource in the students", he said.

Also attending the Valentine's Day reception were members of the Senator's staff; Dennis Fradley, Anchorage office manager; Mary Louise Faunce, Constituent service person; and Carol Gustafson, Murkowski's Mat-Su Borough aide.

Local dignitaries included: Wasilla Mayor Charles Bumpus, Land Developer and former Wasilla mayoral candidate Royce Johnston and members of both the Wasilla city council and Mat-Su Borough assembly.

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Ronald J. Swider
...Student Representative

I feel that the student government is, and should be, available to the entire student body. Our student government is already becoming this and I believe that higher visibility to the student body will further this end.

Involvement is the key. I can be involved by hearing the student voice and relaying it to the governing body itself and vice-versa. Other students may be involved by having an opinion and voicing it.

All students will have the opportunity to express their feelings on the usefulness of a formal student government by voting or not on March 11-15. I intend to vote.

Is There a Dress Code at MSCC?

When one walks through the halls of our school observing the manner of dress, there appears to be some unwritten dress code. Not a secret code, however; the statements come in 100% cotton and are S,M,L, and XL. The message is clear at first glance.

They come in many styles and colors but are always 100% cotton. The quality is dictated by where they are manufactured and what brand name is on them. The price may range from $2.98 to $29.00. Some people wear them because they don't concern themselves with anything but function and comfort and have no particular comment to make with their clothes. However, there is a macho image attached to the ones a logger would wear with the sleeves cut off just above the elbow. Pseudo-hippies wear them unclean over tee-shirts. Since the sixties, the unkempt look has stood for anti-establishment. An academician may wear one under a corduroy blazer to project hip nonchalance. The ones worn for that reason have to be new, never more than once or twice washed. Flannel shirts make a statement or leave an impression of some kind on almost everyone.